



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

Again thanking you for your hearty commendations of my course in relation to this subject, and assuring you that I shall continue to do all in my power to further the work, I remain

Yours respectfully,

NORMAN J. COLMAN, *Commissioner.*

*Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., Oct. 20, 1886.*

### Second blooming of *Salix humilis*.

On the 25th of last September, while collecting the leaves of some willows, I came across a bush of *S. humilis* which was full of partially developed staminate catkins and three fully developed ones. I visited the place two weeks later and about one-half of the catkins had bloomed. The other half had dried up and withered.

*Phoenix, Mich.*

OLIVER A. FARWELL.

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

*Plant Analysis*: qualitative and quantitative. By G. Dragendorff, Ph. D. Translated from the German by Henry G. Greenish, F. I. C. J. H. Vail & Co., New York, 1884. 8vo. pp. 280.

The study of plant constituents, a most important part of a full knowledge of plants, received a great impetus from the publication of this work. Both in its original form and its English version it at once attracted attention for its completeness, compactness and adaptability to the requirements of the student. The translation is exceptionally accurate and satisfactory, and has all the value of an original work.

The study of chemical botany is now receiving more attention than heretofore, and merits, and is likely to obtain, a larger place yet in the curriculum of botanical science, being especially appropriate as a part of the course in vegetable physiology, and even more so in medical and pharmaceutical botany. This change can be chiefly traced to the influence of Dr. Dragendorff's work, for although it has been before the public but a short time, it has nevertheless come to be looked upon as the standard and necessary guide in such study.

A certain amount of knowledge of chemistry, chemical manipulation, and of the microscope, is presupposed in the pupil, but having this, the work will be found as clear and simple as the complex nature of the subject permits. Its arrangement is such that it can not fail to stimulate the pupil to original investigation, for while the limits of the work would only permit the introduction of the more important constituents of plants, yet he is kept upon the alert for less usual or unknown compounds, which are to be worked out from information gathered elsewhere, the copious references to literature aiding him in his research.

The fact that the work is specially adapted for the investigation of chemical problems from a botanical point of view, makes the notice of it at this time peculiarly fitting, as Miss Martin's recent articles on the subject have undoubtedly turned the thoughts of our readers in this direction.

*General Biology*. By William T. Sedgwick, Ph. D., and Edmund B. Wilson, Ph. D. Part I. 8° pp. vii. 193. Henry Holt & Co., New York, 1886. American Science Series.

A new book on biology is always welcome, especially when it deals with methods of laboratory work. Every respectable teacher believes in laboratory methods, but every good teacher follows no guide blindly, and has notions of his own as to the order and details of presentation. The very fact that a constant succession of laboratory guides is appearing shows that teachers differ as